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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1141
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Minnie Bommer on the occasion of
her retirement from Children and Family
Services, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those estimable citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with the utmost integrity, dedication, and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Minnie Bommer is one such person who throughout her professional career has demonstrated the greatest commitment and integrity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bommer has meritoriously served Children and Family Services, Inc. for sixteen remarkable years, and will be retiring as the agency's Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary career in public service, she has distinguished herself as a conscientious and dedicated public servant, and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, a sterling scholar, Minnie Bommer is a highly-regarded graduate of the Frazier High School Class of 1957, and the 1st Practical Nursing Class of 1967-1968 for the Covington Area Vocational School; she received her nursing license in 1968; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Bommer received a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree from Memphis State University in 1991, and Master of Arts degree with an Emphasis on Rural Development from Antioch University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, committed to lifelong learning, she has earned Continuing Education Credits from the University of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, Lane College, Spelman College, and the University of California; and

WHEREAS, Minnie Bommer served with the utmost acumen and ability as a Licensed Practical Nurse with the Tipton County Memorial Hospital from 1968 to 1973; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Ms. Bommer accepted the position of Tipton County Coordinator of the Comprehensive Training Act for the Office of Manpower Training; and

WHEREAS, she distinguished herself as the Eligibility Counselor for the Tennessee Department of Human Services in Tipton County from 1974 to 1982; and

WHEREAS, Minnie Bommer diligently served as the Maternal-Infant-Health-Outreach Worker for the Douglas Community Health Center in Haywood County from 1982 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bommer began her admirable service as the Program Developer for the TCCFS and Maternal-Infant-Health-Outreach Worker for Haywood and Tipton Counties on June 1, 1986; she served in this capacity as an advocacy for the children of Tennessee until July of 1989; and

WHEREAS, in continuance of her long history of selfless service to the citizens of this State, Ms. Bommer founded Children and Family Services, and during her sixteen-year tenure as the agency's Executive Director, the agency has assisted more than 700 children and their families yearly; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of her profession and community, Minnie Bommer has been recognized as one of the 1987 Tennessee Women on the Move, and has been awarded the 1988 Tennessee Black Legislative Caucus Distinguished Service Award, the 1989 Thousand Points of Lights Volunteer Award, the 1990 NAACP Lifetime Membership Award, the 1991 THDA Outstanding Service Award, the 1992 Legislative Retreat Economics and

Community Development Image Award, the 1992 CFS Dedicated Service Award, the 1993 CRO Legislative Service Appreciation, the 1993 RDLN Fannie Lou Hammer Award, the 1994 AKA Outstanding Community Service Award, the 1994 West Star Leadership Appreciation Award, the 1995 Tennessee Advocates for Children Pioneer Award, the 1996, 1997, and 1998 Peace and Justice Center Community Award, the 1999 Mertie Buckman Empowerment Award, the 2000 Dedicated Service Award from the Dana Smith Family, the Rural Health Care Worker of the Year Award presented by Rural Health Association of Tennessee, the 2001 Fayette County MPAC Service Award, the 2002 Tipton County Cancer Conference Award, and the February, 2002 UTM Outstanding Contribution Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bommer has dedicated her time and remarkable talents to many local and State Boards, including the Tennessee State Board of Education, the Tennessee Housing Development Board, the Tennessee Employee Association, the Dyersburg State College Advisory Board, the Tipton County Library Board, the Fork Deer Regional Library Board, the Rural Development Leadership Network, the Tennessee Leadership Roundtable, the Tennessee Black Child Institute, the Les Migonette Club, the Community Resource Group, where she was a former Chair, the Six-State Board for Fayetteville, Arkansas, and the Workforce Investment Act Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, she is also a valuable and active member of the Tipton County NAACP, in which she is a life member, the Melanin Book Club, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, the Tennessee Economic on Women, the Minority Health Advisory Council, the Covington Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Community and Economic Development Council, the Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, and the American Humanics Governance Committee; and

WHEREAS, as the elected Alderwoman for the City of Covington, Minnie Bommer earned the distinction of being the first African American and first female elected to public office in the City of Covington; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bommer exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, she enjoys the love and companionship of her husband of forty-three years; and the Bommers' are the proud parents of three children and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Minnie Bommer evinces her devout faith as a member of the Canaan Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, although, Ms. Bommer is retiring, her imprint on Tennessee and its citizenry will remain; as the Executive Director of Children and Family Services, Inc., she leaves behind an indelible legacy of astute and innovative leadership and the foundation for future growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, she has served Children and Family Services and the communities and families of Tennessee with the greatest distinction; her wisdom and insight will be greatly missed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Minnie Bommer for her honorable service to Children and Family Services, Inc., commend her on her sixteen years of professional excellence, recognize her stalwart activism for single parents, children, and women, and applaud her commitment to her family and her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express to Mrs. Bommer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.